

DEFINITIONS OF KEY TERMS

Abridging – reducing.

Bail – refers to the practice by which a judge may allow a criminal defendant to go free before trial, when the defendant deposits a sum of money with the court (known as “posting bail”) as a promise to return to court as required later.

Common law –the law deriving from the body of principles and rules of action developed from long-standing practices or from the precedents set by judicial decisions (as distinguished from the statutory law or civil law)

Disparage – devalue; depreciate by indirect means.

Due process of law – generally refers to the concept that government must operate according to the established laws and policies; also refers to the concept that a government must afford advance notice of its actions and a right of the affected persons to be heard, e.g. at a hearing or trial.

Enumeration – the process of mentioning specifically or expressly naming.

Indictment – a formal written accusation that charges a person with committing a crime.

Infringed – frustrated; defeated; encroached upon.

Militia – the body of citizens in a state capable of bearing arms.

Oath – an affirmation of the truth of a statement, made with a sense of responsibility to God to tell the truth.

Power – an authority to take action and use force if necessary to accomplish that action.

Probable cause – reasonable grounds to believe that a person should be arrested or searched; objective facts and circumstances that would lead a reasonable person to believe that a crime was or is being committed; more than mere suspicion or hunch.

Quartered – refers to the practice of stationing military troops in the homes of citizens without the citizens’ consent.

Right – a moral authority that resides in individual human beings to act or not act, and to do so without interference from others; a moral claim of one person upon the action or resources of others. (A *legal* right is an authority to act or not act, or a freedom from the actions of others, or a claim upon the actions or resources of others, supported by the power of the state.)

Warrant – a written order, issued by a judge or other magistrate, which authorizes a peace officer to arrest a person, to search for things that may be evidence of a crime, or to seize items that may be evidence of a crime.

Well-regulated – in proper working order; functioning as expected.